

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2491

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

USLO SACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5292

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: EXERCISE ABSALON EXPRESS; DANISH REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT OF  
POL USED

REF: USNATO 5274 NOTAL

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING PERM REPS MEETING NOVEMBER 2, SYG  
RAISED DANISH REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT OF POL USED DURING  
EXERCISE ABSALON EXPRESS. ITALY, UK AND BELGIUM RESPONDED  
POSITIVELY; FRG WAS OPTIMISTIC; CANADA AND NETHERLANDS WERE  
NEGATIVE. DANISH REP CONFIRMED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD  
ANNOUNCED DECISION THAT EXERCISE COULD PROCEED, ON BASIS OF  
FAVORABLE RESPONSES OF SOME ALLIED GOVERNMENTS. ACTION  
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REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON U.S. RESPONSE TO DANISH REQUEST.

END SUMMARY.

1. DURING PERM REPS' MEETING NOVEMBER 2 TO RECEIVE U.S.

PRESENTATION ON NATO AND WARSAW PACT CONVENTIONAL FORCES, SYG LUNS REFERRED TO DANISH REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT OF POL USED DURING EXERCISE ABSALON EXPRESS (NOV 4-21) FROM EXERCISE PARTICIPANTS. DANISH PERM REP SVART THANKED THOSE WHO HAD REPLIED BILATERALLY WITH OFFER TO RESUPPLY DENMARK IN PROPORTION TO POL USED DURING EXERCISE, AND RECOGNIZED THAT OTHERS MIGHT HAVE "SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES."

2. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) REPORTED THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS PREPARED TO REPLACE IN KIND POL USED BY BELGIAN FORCES IN EXERCISE. REPLACEMENT WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER END OF EXERCISE.

SYG REPORTED THAT LUXEMBOURG WOULD REPLACE POL USED.

3. CATALANO (ITALY) AGREED TO FOLLOW SAME PROCEDURE AS BELGIANS, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ALL EXERCISE PARTICIPANTS WOULD FOLLOW SUIT, AND ASKED SVART IF DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO ALLOW EXERCISE TO PROCEED. SVART CONFIRMED THAT DANISH GOVERNMENT HAD MADE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT POSITIVE RESPONSES OF SOME ALLIES.

4. SPIERENBURG (NETHERLANDS) RECALLED HIS OWN COUNTRY'S POL CRISIS, EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT WITH DANISH REQUEST, AND QUESTIONED IMPACT OF POL REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE DURING WARTIME. SYG SAID REPLACEMENT IN THIS CASE WAS A ONE-TIME, AD HOC ARRANGEMENT. CASE COULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS SETTING A PRECEDENT.

5. PECK (UK) REPORTED THAT UK FORCES WOULD RESUPPLY DANES FOR POL USED DURING EXERCISE.

6. MENZIES (CANADA) EXPLAINED THAT CANADA DRAWS ITS EXERCISE SUPPLIES OF POL FROM U.S., AND WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO REPLACE POL USED DURING EXERCISES. COMMENT: CANADA IS NOT A PARTICIPANT IN ABSALON EXPRESS. END COMMENT.

7. KRAPF (FRG) FORESAW NO DIFFICULTY IN RESPONDING  
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POSITIVELY BUT DID NOT YET HAVE SUCH AUTHORIZATION FROM BONN.

8. MC CHAIRMAN STEI HOFF SAID PREPARATORY MEASURES FOR EXERCISE WERE ALREADY UNDERWAY, AND SAID IT WAS SACEUR'S UNDERSTANDING AS WELL AS DANISH PERM REP'S THAT EXERCISE COULD PROCEED. HE NOTED THAT AMOUNT OF POL INVOLVED DID NOT IN ANY EVENT SEEM VERY LARGE.

9. AGAIN REQUEST GUIDANCE ON U.S. RESPONSE TO DANISH REQUEST.  
MCAULIFFE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO BONN  
BRUSSELS  
COPENHAGEN  
LONDON  
LUXEMBOURG  
OTTAWA

ROME  
THE HAGUE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN  
USNMR SHAPE  
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